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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/655,226	09/05/2000	Yuka Sakazume	SONY-UO148	7761
29175	7590	06/17/2005	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			GAUTHIER, GERALD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2645	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/655,226

Applicant(s)

SAKAZUME, YUKA

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. **Claim(s) 1-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, et al. (US 4,602,129) in view of Carlsen (US 5,550,907), in view of Agraharam et al. (US 6,483,899 B2) and in further view of Guck (US 5,794,039).

Regarding **claim(s) 1 and 7**, Matthews discloses a communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, (18 on FIG. 1), which are connected to a network (column 4, line 18 "telephone communications network") including a Public Switched Network (FIG. 1) in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number (column 22, line 62 "an

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address") issued by a communication terminal (18 on FIG. 1) being a management terminal (column 1, lines 12-17), comprising:

a message management unit (10 on FIG. 1) and a bulletin board unit (column 70, line 34 "verbal bulletin board") provided in the network (column 4, lines 24-40) [The telephone communication network multiple PBXs with a variety of user terminals and the voice mail system including the verbal bulletin board];

means for leaving a message (column 70, line 35 "recorded messages") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 70, line 35 "the user") to the common phone number on the bulletin board unit (column 70, lines 35-58) [The system allows the user to record a message and the recipient would use the feature known as verbal bulletin board]; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in the message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in the message management unit, and the message left on the bulletin board unit (column 70, lines 2-33) [The system allows other users to access the receive only message address to hear messages that are stored in the received only message address], in a case where the message is left on the bulleting board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals (column 70, lines 35-58) [The system allows other users to access the receive only message address to hear message therein using the verbal bulletin board].

Although, Matthews discloses a telephone management unit but fails to disclose means for registering a predetermined communication terminal.

However, Carlsen teaches means for registering a predetermined communication terminal so as to correspond to the issued common phone number by sending an identification name of the predetermined communication terminals of the plurality of communication terminals to the phone number management unit in correspondence with the common phone number issued from the management terminal (column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 67) [The subscriber uses the login button of the terminal to register the terminal in the Local Central Office Switch 112. As shown on FIG. 6 multiple terminals are registered under the login code #1 of the subscriber and under a personal phone number].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Matthews using the intelligent terminal as taught by Carlsen.

This modification of the invention enables the system to poll multiple terminals using a subscriber's personal number so that the user would receive calls at a terminal when he/she login to that terminal.

Matthews as modified discloses a verbal bulletin but fails to disclose a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals.

However, Agraharam, in the same field endeavor, teaches means for sending a message file from a registered communication terminal to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected and leaving the message file in the message management unit (FIG. 1 and column 7,

lines 29-40) [The sender could designate a single group identifier to identify all intended recipients and the network would then send the message to each recipient in the group identifier].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Matthews using the network as taught by Agraharam.

This modification of the invention enables a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals so that the user would have the benefit of receiving a message from the network.

Matthews as modified discloses a verbal bulletin but fails to disclose a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit.

However, Guck, in the same field endeavor, teaches notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit to receive the message file is selected (FIG. 1 and column 8, lines 10-22) [The server 15 maintains information of the fact that the user is a bulletin board subscriber and notifies the subscriber of any new message posted].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Matthews using the server as taught by Guck.

This modification of the invention enables a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit so that the user would have the benefit of being notified of messages posted in the bulletin board.

Regarding **claim(s) 2, 5, 8 and 11**, Matthews discloses wherein each of the communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of the communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium (column 22, lines 54-68).

Regarding **claim(s) 3, 6, 9 and 12**, Matthews discloses wherein the message file and the message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively (column 22, lines 54-68).

Regarding **claim(s) 4 and 10**, Matthews in combination with Carlsen, Agraharam and Guck disclose all the limitations of **claim(s) 4 and 10** as stated in **claim(s) 1 and 7** rejection above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim(s) 1-12** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

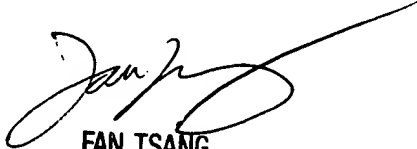
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7539. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GERALD GAUTHIER
PATENT EXAMINER
g.g.

June 8, 2005


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